

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Presbyterian Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON
Old Stone Church (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
304 East Piccadilly Street

CITY, TOWN
Winchester

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

--- VICINITY OF
Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE
Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY
(in city) 840

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME First Presbyterian Church c/o Rev. James Jackson

STREET & NUMBER
116 South Loudoun Street

CITY, TOWN
Winchester

STATE
Virginia 22601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Winchester City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Winchester

STATE
Virginia 22601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE
1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D. C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1973, 1976 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED (Restored)	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although the other early churches in the neighborhood have given way to early twentieth-century houses, the Old Stone Church remains an imposing structure displaying the importance the early Presbyterians placed in their meeting house. According to the date incised on the west wall, the Old Stone Church was under construction in 1788. The building is 54' x 36' with limestone walls laid up in irregular coursed rubble. The five-bay south facade with central entrance facing Piccadilly Street is echoed in the five-bay front wall of the Lutheran church (constructed in 1764) whose ruins stand in Mt. Hebron Cemetery some blocks away. Another principal entrance is in the three-bay east wall, where like the front the entrance is centered in the wall. The five-bay north wall has a small, high central window. Splayed, stone jack arches with undecorated keystones are employed at each of the openings.

The church appears remarkably intact for its 188 years, however its present appearance is due to a major restoration effort begun in 1941. The east wall required a complete reconstruction in that year, having been struck with shell fire during the Civil War which resulted in the collapse of the wall fifteen years later and a frame wall replacement. Due to later remodelings and deterioration, the jack arches in the west and north walls had to be rebuilt. The broad window openings have upper and lower sash of twenty panes, an unusual feature in a Valley church. A smaller window in the north wall, with six-over-six sash, lights the pulpit. Massive shutters with five raised panels are used at each of the windows. The entrance doors likewise have five raised panels and a ten-light transom above both entrances. Hardware for the shutters and doors was handwrought by a Philadelphia blacksmith as part of the twentieth-century restoration.

A simple box cornice was used at the north and south roof overhangs, and an asphalt shingle roof was applied at the time of the restoration.

It is not surprising in a structure which served several congregations, survived a war, and went on to house a public school and an armory that few traces of the original interior remain. Investigations by the architect of the restoration revealed the existence of the high window in the north wall which helped to determine the configuration of the pulpit, and plaster removal revealed the ends of the supporting members of the east and west balconies and the stairs to the balconies.

The north and south facades of the Old Stone Church are unusually tall for a one-story structure. The height of the walls permitted the clearance necessary for the balconies.

Removal of a later ceiling revealed the original curved rafters. The barrel-vaulted ceiling follows the curve of these rafters.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

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7 DESCRIPTION

The stairs servicing the balconies are both straight runs built against the south wall, flanking the south entrance. The plan of the church is built around two major axes; the principal aisle runs north-south from the south entrance and is flanked on the north by the pulpit and chancel. The second aisle is directed east-west, with only an entrance at the east side. The two aisles divide the church into four quadrants, and the pews are arranged within these areas. The pews are enclosed with simple raised paneling. There are two double sections of pews flanking the north-south aisle at the south side of the church facing the pulpit. The sections of pews at the north side flank the pulpit and are smaller than the pews to the south due to the position of pulpit and chancel. These pews face the pulpit at right angles to the south pews. The high pulpit is set on a reeded semi-octagonal post which fans out at the top of the post to support the pulpit. A wood canopy projects above the pulpit from the cornice of the raised panel soundboard flanking the pulpit on the north wall. Horizontal beaded wainscoting is used on the walls.

JFY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

On November 2, 1858 the property was deeded to the Old School Baptist Church of Color, in consideration of \$500.00. This \$500.00 was raised among 285 stockholders who purchased from a half share for fifty cents to sixteen and one-half shares. In 1868 John Lin as trustee for the church transferred the property to Nathan Brackett for the Free Will Baptist Church of Winchester with the provision that the Old School Baptist would have the use of the building one Sunday in four. By 1875 the building was in need of extensive repairs and the property was leased to the Public Schools of Winchester for use as a black school. The Old School Baptist again retained the right to use the building when classes or school functions were not in progress.

In order to use the building as a school, a new roof was added, the gables were rebuilt, a frame wing was added to the east, the ceiling was lowered and a new privy was constructed. The building proved to be inadequate by the late 1920s, and a new black school was constructed on Kent Street; the church was abandoned. On January 20, 1929 the building was leased to Company 1, 116th Regiment, Virginia State National Guard and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, for use as an armory.

(See Continuation Sheet # 3)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SUBSCRIBERS:

SPECIFIC DATES	1788	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William Holliday Robert Sherrard James Holliday
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1788, Winchester's Old Stone Church stands as an early example of Shenandoah Valley ecclesiastical architecture. The simple structure is typical of the austere stone meeting houses erected by the Presbyterian settlers up and down the Valley. The building has suffered numerous changes over the years --changes that reflect the history of an active and strife-torn city. However, through a sensitive, scholarly restoration, the building now resembles its original state and thus provides insight into the religious life of Virginia's early Presbyterians. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who established their faith in and around Winchester and constructed the Old Stone Church came into the Shenandoah Valley from the Cumberland Valley of Pennsylvania. The church bears numerous similarities to the Paxton Presbyterian Church constructed in 1740 in Paxtang, Pennsylvania. The Virginia Gazette (Winchester Advertiser) announced that on Saturday, the 26th of July 1788, any persons "desirous of becoming undertakers will please to attend with plans and estimates" to the house of Mr. John Donaldson for the purpose of subscribing to build a Presbyterian meeting house. William Holliday, James Holliday, and Robert Sherrard are listed as the Managers. Construction of the building was begun that year as the cornerstone at the lower south corner of the building attests.

The Presbyterian Meeting House (Old Stone Church) was a branch of the Opequon Church, located south of Winchester, which had been organized in 1736 and is claimed by some historians as being the oldest congregation west of the Blue Ridge (Foote, Vol. I, p. 102; Cartmell, pp. 165-67). A permanent congregation of the Old Stone Church was organized on Sunday, September 7, 1800 consisting of forty members. The original lot on which the church was constructed is Lot 68 of Lord Fairfax's first addition to Winchester. A cemetery lies adjacent to the church and was used until the mid-nineteenth century.

The Synod of Virginia held its second regular session at the Old Stone Church in 1790. It subsequently met there twelve times between 1790 and 1834. The Winchester Presbytery was organized at the church in 1794. This Presbytery covered parts of what is now West Virginia, southern Pennsylvania, eastern Maryland, and in Virginia extended east to Berryville and south to Woodstock. In 1815 the first Sunday School south of Pennsylvania was established at the church.

In 1834 the Kent Street Church merged with the Presbyterian Church in Winchester and the Old Stone Church was sold to the Baptist Church of Winchester "for the unexpired term of 500 years, renewable at 500 year intervals thereafter in consideration of \$1,200.00"

(See Continuation Sheet # 2)

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SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

It was not until March 1932, nearly one hundred years after the Baptists acquired the church, by a decree of the Corporation Court that the surviving members of the Old School Baptist Church conveyed the building back to the Presbyterian Church. Restoration of the church began in 1941 under the leadership of Clifford D. Grim with R. Brognard Okie of Philadelphia, a noted restoration architect, guiding the work on the church. The restoration was completed in 1950.

Conveyance of the Old Stone Church to the Baptists in 1834 did not include the church yard and cemetery. Interments in the cemetery continued until 1844 when Mt. Hebron Cemetery, at the head of Piccadilly Street, was established. At that time most of the graves were moved to Mt. Hebron. In 1912 the remaining unidentified graves were removed and a mass burial was made at Mt. Hebron.

General Daniel Morgan was buried in the cemetery of the church on July 6, 1802. Morgan's gravestone suffered from considerable vandalism during the War Between the States according to Cartmell, and the gravestone was removed for "safe-keeping." His remains were moved to Mt. Hebron on June 13, 1868.

JFY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cartmell, T. K. Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants. Berryville, VA. 1963 (reprint--originally published 1909).
 Foote, William Henry. Sketches of Virginia-Second Series. Philadelphia, PA., 1855.
 Quarles, Garland R. The Churches of Winchester, Virginia, Winchester, VA., 1960.
The Virginia Gazette or the Winchester Advertiser, July 23, 1788.
 Woodworth, Robert Bell. The History of the Presbyterian Church in Winchester, Virginia,

1780-1949, Winchester, VA; 1950.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre (94' X 124')

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	7, 4, 5	2, 6, 0	4, 3, 4, 0	9, 6, 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 31 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

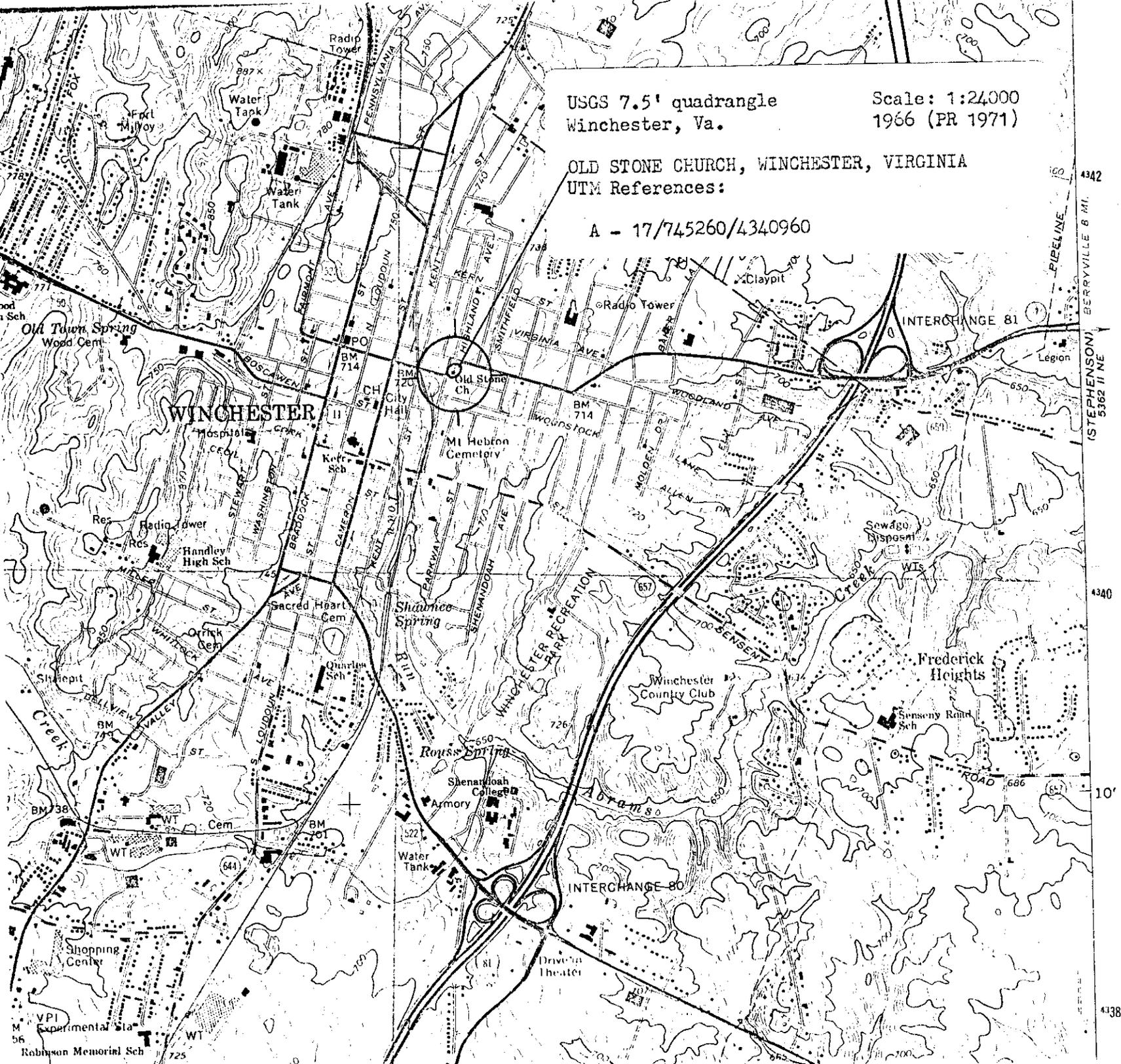
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Winchester, Va.

Scale: 1:24,000
1966 (PR 1971)

OLD STONE CHURCH, WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

A - 17/745260/4340960



4342

(STEPHENSON)
BERRYVILLE 6 MI.
5362 II NE

4340

10'

4338